

Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security

EQUIPMENT GUIDANCE (prepared July 20, 2006)

This guidance applies to the following Grant Programs:

- State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)
- Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)
- Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP)
- Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS)
- Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)
- Citizen Corps Program (CCP)
- Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP)
- Port Security Grant Program (PSGP)

Allowable equipment categories for the above referenced programs are listed on the web-based Authorized Equipment List (AEL) on the Responder Knowledge Base (RKB), which is sponsored by the federal Department of Homeland Security, Office of Grants and Training (DHS-OGT). The 2006 AEL may be found at www.rkb.mipt.org, consisting of more than 500 items. Once you reach the RKB home page, click on “Log in as Guest.” When you reach the next page, look on the left side under “Most Popular” – click on item 2, “DHS-AEL.” This will now bring you to the 2006 AEL.

As in previous years, the AEL is arranged into 21 broad categories of equipment types. Click on a category and a drop-down list will appear with the various equipment items allowed in that category. Then click on the particular item you are interested in and it will be displayed, listing the grant programs that may be used to purchase the item, as well as any restrictions or requirements that must be met. As stated previously, the AEL now serves 9 different grant programs, so make sure the item you are electing to purchase is allowed under the particular program you are using. For example, if you wished to purchase a Chemical Leak Detector with LETPP Funds, (item 7.2.2.5), you would find that this item is not an allowable purchase under that program.

Please notice that some items listed on the AEL have to meet certain standards in order to be purchased with grant funds, such as SCBA Item 1.1.1.1, which must meet the current NIOSH standard as being CBRN Compliant. On the right side of the SCBA page is a block titled “Knowledge Links” which contains a list of 12 air packs that currently meet the certification and are allowed to be purchased.

Unlike in previous years, towns will not have the option of the State serving as their purchasing agents; however, towns may use state contacts to meet their needs. If you want to see if item is on contract, consult with the DEMHS program specialist assigned to your region.

Please remember that items that appear in Category 2 “Explosive Device Mitigation and Remediation Equipment” are only allowed to be purchased by pre-existing Bomb Squads, (Hartford, New Haven, Stamford, and CSP ESU).

As in previous years, weapons of any type are not allowed under the grant programs. Following that line, no enhancements for a weapon are allowed, such as laser sights or specialized slings – grips.

Certain items of PPE, Level A and certain meters, above what was issued in the basic metering package, can only be order through one of the Regional Hazmat Teams.

Allowable Additions to Authorized Equipment

1. Body Armor – Type III ballistic armor is allowed to be purchased for existing SWAT Teams only. – Patrol Body Armor worn under the uniform is not allowed.
2. Fixed Generators – 10.2.1 Grant funds can be used to purchase the generator and pay for installation. Installation expenses are only allowed up to the Transfer Switch. Any cost involved in wiring beyond the switch is not allowable. Removal of the old equipment is not an allowable expense.
3. The cost of running additional phone lines into new or existing EOC's is allowable.
4. Plasma Screens – allowed in dispatch centers and EOC to display vehicle locations or GIS information.
5. Radio Consoles – The work stations for a dispatch centers are allowable.
6. Other items not on the AEL are reviewed on case by case basis by ODP for inclusion.

Vehicle Usage: Vehicles purchased with grant funds from Category 12 “CBRNE Incident Response Vehicles,” can only be used for CBRNE Responses – ODP has allowed for additional uses such as a Hazmat vehicle responding to a normal Hazmat call or a tow vehicle pulling a department's boat trailer to a water rescue. The vehicle cannot be assigned to one person or group for their exclusive use. Examples: The chief cannot assign a vehicle to himself as his response vehicle nor can he assign a vehicle to the on-duty battalion chief as his response vehicle. Both of these are examples of supplanting which is prohibited under the grant. Vehicles used by these individuals are considered a normally budgeted expense.

Accountability System – the State is in the process of acquiring the Salamander Accountability System for the Regional Hazmat Teams. The state Department of Public Health and a number of local departments have also purchased this system. In order to assure interoperability at a large disaster scene this is the only system that can be purchased with Grant Funds. You may view the available systems at www.salamandertechnologies.com There are several levels of the system available from the command tag boards up to a completely automated system. All the systems are upwardly compatible.

There are several things to keep in mind – Grant Funds can not be used to purchase an item that has been previously budgeted for. In example, a town in its 2006 budget has provided funds for replacement of SCBAs for their Fire Service and it now becomes apparent the Town could use Grant Funds to make the purchase. This would be not allowed as it would be supplanting – similar to the example cited above concerning vehicles.

When an item is purchased that requires a service fee such as a satellite phone, Grant Funds can only pay for the service during the Grant Performance period, which would be approximately one year.

General use computers are not allowed under any of the Grant Programs listed above. They must be part of an integrated system for communications, GIS, logistical support, etc.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS

The contract for the Emergency Notification Systems will be issued by DOIT in the near future. In addition, a number of locals have purchased a system on their own, so it is appropriate to share the guidance on the allowable use of these systems and ODP's clarifications on the purchasing of these systems in order that you can make an informed purchasing decision.

As you are aware there are two types of Emergency Notification Systems – 1. Hardware Based, where the Town purchases all the necessary hardware and phone data base to operate the system on their own; and 2. Service Based, where the Town enters into a contract with an off site service provider who would be responsible for placing the emergency notification calls to the specified geographic area.

ODP has approved both types of systems for purchase with Grant Funds with the following restrictions: Service Type – Grant Funds can only be used to pay for the Service during the Grant Performance. Hardware System – ODP does not allow any telecommunications fees to be paid for out the grant that are associated with the operation of the system. This means that if additional phone lines are needed to operate the system, ODP will allow their installation cost to be charged to the Grant, but the monthly charge for maintaining the line is the responsibility of the jurisdiction.

In order to reduce the cost to the Towns opting for the Hardware Option, the State Attorney General has been queried about the possibility of providing the Enhanced 911 Data Base to the Towns free of charge. This request is still pending and we will keep you advised as to any future rulings.

If this should occur we are positive that the Attorney General will attach a restriction on the use of the Data Base for Emergencies only. You would not for example, be able to use the system to announce Town Council meetings or other public service type announcements. Also ODP restricts the use of systems paid for with Grant Funds to Emergency use only.